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Jno. B. Morgan Esq
With Regards of
C. Colt Wetmore

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PAISLEY:

A LOCAL SKETCH,

FROM

VALENTINE'S MANUAL

For 1863.

Presented by Montgomery Wetmore

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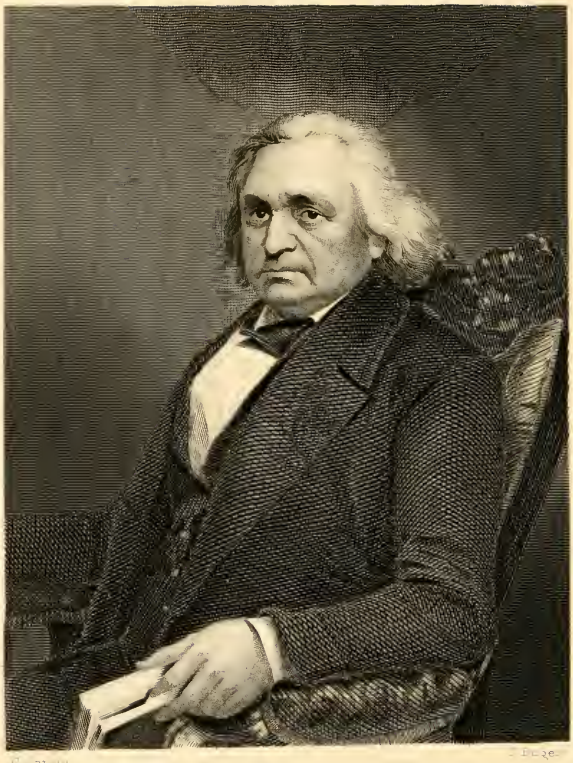

Yours Respectfully
D. F. Valentine

PAISLEY PLACE, IN 17TH STREET BETWEEN 6TH AND 7TH AVENUES.

PAISLEY.

[The Compiler is indebted to P. M. Wetmore, Esq., for the following sketch.]

Every person at all familiar with the history of Scotch manufactures will readily call to mind a busy, prosperous town, bearing the above name, in Renfrewshire, and chiefly known by its extensive trade in cotton and woolen goods.

There is another Paisley, much less distinguished in history, of which it is our purpose to speak at this time.

The mutations in trade, commerce and manufactures, which have occurred in a space of time but little more than is allotted to a generation, are remarkable for their importance, in the light of social progress, and are not undeserving of notice in a work of this nature.

Reference must be had to the uninviting tables of the statistician for full information on the topics to be considered. But it may not be out of place to remind the reader that forty years ago, the cotton sheetings, brown and white muslins, checks, stripes, drills, and bed-ticks, the substantial materials essential to the wants of the thrifty and well-ordered household, were mostly woven in hand-looms, and not as now, the products of immense manufacturing establishments, around which have clustered populous cities and villages in New-York and New England.

Inventive genius, inspired by the examples of Watt and Whitney, and Arkwright, conceived and executed the complex machinery, by the aid of which American enterprise now supplies the world with cotton goods, indispensable to most nations, but which were comparatively unknown to the commerce of this continent at the commencement of the present century. Before that time, these necessary appliances of domestic life were principally of linen

but the simple words remained to mark the spot where once the busy weaver sat, humming his Scottish airs, while, swiftly as flew the ebbing hours of life, the checkered webbing grew beneath his plastic hands.

"Paisley Place" survives its fourth decade of years, but no shuttle flies under its fast decaying roofs. The weaver's song is hushed; time and death have done their work, and the little primitive fraternity has vanished before the advancing march of associated enterprise.

Our artist, with true antiquarian spirit, has faithfully preserved the features of this scene, as a memorial of an interesting incident in our local history.

New-York, *February* 23, 1863.

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